

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
 SOUTHERN DIVISION

SKO DESIGN GROUP, LLC,

Plaintiff,
 v. Case No. 1:24-cv-01339-PLM-PJG

GRAND RAPIDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE, HON. PAUL L. MALONEY

Defendant.

CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

Trial Date and Time	July 7, 2026 8:45 AM	
Before: Paul L. Maloney	174 Federal Bldg 410 W. Michigan Ave Kalamazoo, MI 49007	
Jury or Non Jury	Jury	
Estimated Length of Trial	4 days	
Motions to Join Parties or Amend Pleadings	March 4, 2025	
Rule 26(a)(1) Disclosures	Plaintiff: Defendant:	March 4, 2025 March 4, 2025
Disclose Name, Address, Area of Expertise and a short summary of expected testimony of: of Expert Witnesses (Rule 26(a)(2)(A))	Plaintiff: Defendant:	May 5, 2025 June 5, 2025
Disclosures of Expert Reports (Rule 26(a)(2)(B))	Plaintiff: Defendant:	July 2, 2025 August 5, 2025
Completion of Discovery	November 6, 2025	
Dispositive Motions	December 8, 2025	
Interrogatories will be limited to:	25 single part questions	

(Single Part Questions)	
Depositions will be limited to: (Fact Witnesses Per Party)	10 per party
Requests for Admission will be limited to: (Per Side)	25 per side
Requests for Production of Documents will be limited to: (Per Side)	N/A
Settlement Conference	<p>Hon. Phillip J. Green 499 Federal Building, 110 Michigan St NW Grand Rapids, MI April 27, 2026 10:30 AM</p> <p>City: Date: Time:</p>
Final Pretrial Conference Before Judge Paul L. Maloney	<p>Date: Time:</p> <p>June 15, 2026 9:00 AM</p>
ADR To Take Place On Or Before:	November 6, 2025

1. **TRIAL DATE AND SETTING:** This case is scheduled for trial before the Honorable Paul L. Maloney, 174 Federal Building, 410 W. Michigan Ave, Kalamazoo, Michigan, as set forth above.
2. **JOINDER OF PARTIES AND AMENDMENTS OF PLEADINGS:** All motions for joinder of parties and all motions to amend the pleadings must be filed by the date set forth in the table above.
3. **DISCLOSURES AND EXCHANGES:** Deadlines for exchange of Rule 26(a)(1) disclosures, names of lay witnesses, identification of experts, voluntary exchange of documents, and disclosure of expert reports under Rule 26(a)(2), if applicable, are ordered as set forth in the table above.
4. **DISCOVERY:** All discovery proceedings shall be completed no later than the date set forth in the table above, and shall not continue beyond this date. All interrogatories, requests for admissions, and other written discovery requests must be served no later than thirty days before the close of discovery. All depositions must be completed before the close of discovery. Interrogatories will be limited as set forth in the table above. Depositions will be limited as set forth in the table above. There shall be no deviations from this order without prior approval of the court upon good cause shown. Time limitations for depositions set forth in Rule 30(d)(1) apply to this case.
5. **MOTIONS:**
 - a. Non-dispositive motions shall be filed in accordance with W.D. Mich. LCivR. 7.3. They will be referred to a Magistrate Judge pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A). In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 471, et seq., it is the policy of this Court to prohibit the consideration of discovery motions unless accompanied by a certification that the moving party has made a

reasonable and good faith effort to reach agreement with opposing counsel on the matters set forth in the motion.

- b. Dispositive motions shall be filed in accordance with W.D. Mich. LCivR 7.2 by the date set forth in the table above. If dispositive motions are based on supporting documents such as depositions or answers to interrogatories, only those excerpts which are relevant to the motion shall be filed. The case manager will notify counsel of the date for oral argument. **Pursuant to Administrative Order 07-026, one courtesy copy of all dispositive motion papers (including responses and replies) and all accompanying exhibits must be submitted directly to the judge's chambers on paper. The copy must be hand-delivered or sent via first class mail the same day the document is e-filed.**
- c. The parties are strongly encouraged to file motions in limine at least fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the final pretrial conference, but in no event shall they be filed later than the date for the submission of the proposed Final Pretrial Order.

6. **ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION:** In the interest of facilitating prompt resolution of this case, and the parties having voluntarily selected facilitative mediation, this matter shall be submitted to facilitative mediation. The parties have fourteen (14) days from the date of this Order to jointly choose one mediator from the list of court certified mediators.¹ Plaintiff is responsible for e-filing notification of the name of the selected mediator. If the parties are unable to jointly select a mediator, they must notify the ADR Administrator², who will select a mediator for them. Once the mediator is selected, a Notice will issue regarding the method and schedule for the mediation conference.

7. **SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE:** The parties are under an ongoing obligation to engage in good faith settlement negotiations. A settlement conference has been scheduled before the magistrate judge as set forth above.

- a. **Persons Required to Attend.** Unless excused by a showing of good cause, the attorney who is to conduct the trial shall attend the settlement conference, accompanied by a representative of the party with full settlement authority. Both shall attend in person. The person with settlement authority must come cloaked with the authority to accept, without further contact with another person, the settlement demand of the opposing party. An insured party shall also appear by a representative of the insurer who is authorized to negotiate and to settle the matter (within policy limits) up to the amount of the opposing parties' existing settlement demand. W.D. Mich. LCivR 16.8
- b. **Settlement Letter to Opposing Party.** A settlement conference is more likely to be productive if, before the conference, the parties have had a written exchange of their settlement proposals. Accordingly, at least fourteen (14) days prior to the settlement conference, plaintiff's counsel shall submit a written itemization of damages and settlement demand to defendant's counsel with a brief explanation of why such a settlement is appropriate. No later than seven (7) days prior to the settlement conference, defendant's

¹ www.miwd.uscourts.gov

² ADR Administrator, U.S. District Court, 399 Federal Building, 110 Michigan St., NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503; 616/456-2381; adr@miwd.uscourts.gov

counsel shall submit a written offer to plaintiff's counsel with a brief explanation of why such a settlement is appropriate. This may lead directly to a settlement. If settlement is not achieved, plaintiff's counsel shall deliver via e-mail to greenmediation@miwd.uscourts.gov, copies of these letters to the chambers of the magistrate judge conducting the conference no later than three (3) business days before the conference. Do not file copies of these letters in the Clerk's Office.

- c. **Confidential Settlement Letter to Court.** In addition, three (3) business days before the conference, each party or their attorney shall submit to the magistrate judge conducting the conference a confidential letter concerning settlement. Letters shall be submitted to greenmediation@miwd.uscourts.gov. A copy of this letter need not be provided to any other party. Do not file a copy of this letter in the Clerk's Office. All information in the settlement letter shall remain confidential and will not be disclosed to any other party without the approval of the writer. The confidential settlement letter shall set forth: (a) the name and title of the party representative who will be present at the settlement conference, with counsel's certification that the representative will have full authority to settle, without the need to consult with any other party; (b) a very brief explanation of the nature of the case, including an identification of any parties added or dismissed since the time of filing; (c) a history of settlement negotiations to date, including all offers, demands and responses (the letter should not, however, divulge any offer made in the context of a voluntary facilitative mediation); (d) the policy limits of any relevant insurance coverage; (e) the limits on settlement authority given to counsel by the client; (f) that party's suggestions concerning the most productive approach to settlement; (g) any other matter that counsel believes will improve the chances of settlement. Plaintiff shall also provide an estimated range of damages recoverable at trial and a brief analysis of the method(s) used for arriving at the estimate(s).
- 8. **FINAL PRETRIAL CONFERENCE:** A final pretrial conference is scheduled at the date and time set forth above.
- 9. **PREPARATION OF PROPOSED FINAL PRETRIAL ORDER:** A proposed pretrial order, entitled "Final Pretrial Order" shall be prepared jointly by counsel and filed **seven (7) business days** prior to the final pretrial conference in the following form:

A final pretrial conference was held on the ____ day of _____. Appearing for the parties as counsel were:

(List the counsel who will attend the pretrial conference.)

- 1. **Exhibits:** The following exhibits will be offered by the plaintiff and the defendant:

(List separately for each party all exhibits, including demonstrative evidence and summaries of other evidence, but name and number. Plaintiff shall use numbers; defendant shall use letters. Indicate with respect to each exhibit whether and for what reason its admissibility is challenged. Exhibits expected to be used solely for impeachment purposes need not be numbered)

or listed until identified at trial. Failure to list an exhibit required to be listed by this order will result, except upon a showing of good cause, in a determination of non-admissibility at trial. Objections not contained in the Pretrial Order, other than objections under Evidence Rule 402 or 403, shall be deemed waived except for good cause shown. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(3)(B).)

2. Uncontroverted Facts: The parties have agreed that the following may be accepted as established facts:

(State in detail all uncontested facts.)

3. Controverted Facts and Unresolved Issues: The factual issues remaining to be determined and issues of law for the Court's determination are:

(Set out each issue which is genuinely controverted, including issues on the merits and other matters which should be drawn to the Court's attention.)

4. Witnesses:

- a. Non-expert witnesses to be called by the plaintiff and defendant, except those who may be called for impeachment purposes only, are:

(List names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all non-experts who will testify. Indicate whether they are expected to testify in person, by deposition videotape, or by reading of their deposition transcript. Indicate all objections to the anticipated testimony of each non-expert witness. For each witness listed, indicate whether the witness will be called or merely may be called to testify.)

- b. Expert witnesses to be called by the plaintiff and defendant, except those who may be called for impeachment purposes only, are:

5. Depositions and Other Discovery Documents:

All depositions, answers to written interrogatories, and requests for admissions, or portions thereof, that are expected to be offered in evidence by the plaintiff and the defendant are:

(Designate portions of depositions by page and line number. Designate answers to interrogatories and requests for admissions by answer or request number. Designation need not be made of portions that may be used, if at all, as impeachment of an adverse party. Indicate any objections to proposed deposition testimony, answers to interrogatories, and admissions.)

6. Length of Trial: Counsel estimate the trial will last approximately _____ full days, allocated as follows: _____ days for plaintiff's case; _____ days for defendant's case; _____ days for other parties.

7. Prospects of Settlement: The status of settlement negotiations is:

(Indicate progress toward settlement and issues that are obstacles to settlement.)

The proposed Final Pretrial Order will be signed by all counsel, signifying acceptance, and upon approval by the Court, with such additions as are necessary, will be signed by the Court as an order reflecting the final pretrial conference.

10. MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE FINAL PRETRIAL CONFERENCE: At the final pretrial conference, the parties and the Court will formulate a plan for trial, including a program for facilitating the admission of evidence, consider the prospects of settlement, and consider such other matters as may aid in the trial or other disposition of the action. Unless excused upon a showing of good cause, the attorney who is to conduct the trial shall attend the pretrial conference and shall be accompanied by a representative of the party with full settlement authority.

11. PREPARATION FOR TRIAL:

a. Each party shall file the following not later than **two (2) business days** following the final pretrial conference:

1. Proposed voir dire questions. The Court will ask basic voir dire questions. Counsel for the parties will be permitted to question prospective jurors. Questioning by counsel shall not be repetitive of questions asked by the Court or of questions asked in the juror questionnaire.

2. Trial briefs.

b. The parties shall jointly file the following not later than two (2) business days following the final pretrial conference:

1. Proposed jury instructions. This Court uses Western District of Michigan's Standardized Jury Instructions for the preliminary and final instructions. A copy of these instructions is available on the Court's website (www.miwd.uscourts.gov).³ The court generally uses O'Mally, Grenig, & Lee's Federal Jury Practice and Instructions for those not covered in the standard set. All instructions, including those to which there is an objection, shall be filed as one document. Each instruction shall be submitted in full text, one instruction per page, and in the order to be read to the jury. Indicate those instructions with outstanding objections. No instruction submitted shall contain

³ The instructions can be located through the Attorney Information link or through the Electronic Filing section. If accessing through the Electronic Filing section, you will need to use your E-Filing Login and Password. Once you have logged into the electronic filing section of the website, click Utilities, then select WDMI Attorney References and you will see the link to the Standard Civil Jury Instructions.

highlighting or blanks. If the language of a standardized instruction is modified, or an additional (non-standard) instruction submitted, the source of the additional language or instruction must be indicated. Objections to opposing counsel's proposed instructions, will be specified with a summary of the reasons for each objection including a citation to relevant legal authority.

The parties are required to submit a copy of the joint statement of the case and statement of the elements, joint proposed jury instructions, and joint proposed verdict form(s) in Word format to Judge Maloney's Judicial Assistant, Christina Cavazos at Christina_Cavazos@miwd.uscourts.gov and Case Manager, Amy Redmond at Amy_Redmond@miwd.uscourts.gov.

2. A joint statement of the case and statement of the elements that must be proved by each party. If the parties are unable to agree on the language of a joint statement of the case, then separate, concise, non-argumentative statements shall be filed. The statement(s) of the case will be read to the prospective jurors during the jury selection. The elements that must be proved by each party will be included in the preliminary jury instructions.

Dated: February 10, 2025

/s/ Phillip J. Green
PHILLIP J. GREEN
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE